

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02153 031952Z
ACTION ARA-14

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DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

THE FOLLOWING SENT BY ICA/PANAMA ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE
DATED 03 APR 1978 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY. - ALL SUNDAY PAPERS HEADLINED THE SATURDAY SPEECH
BY GENERAL TORRIJOS AT THE FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JOURNALISTY
IN SANTIAGO DE VERAGUAS. IN HIS BRIEF APPEARANCZ THE CHIEF
OF GOVERNMENT HEWED TO THE "WAIT AND SEE" LINE ON THE TREATIES
BUT ISSUED SOME PROPOSALS FOR EFORM OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM THE SHORT SPEECH DEAL WITH THE
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TREATIES AND BROADENING THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL AYSEMBLY OF
COMMUNITY RZPRESENTATIVES. ACCORDING TO THE SPEECH TEXT AS
CARRIED IN DOMINICAL: "AS FOR THE TREATY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS
ALREADY ADOPTED THE POLITICAL LINE OF NOT GIVING ITS VERDICT,
JUDGMENT, OR POINTS OF VIEW UNTIL THE TREATIES APPROVED BY
PLEBISCITE BY THIS NATION ARE RETURNED, AND LATER WITHIN THE
CONTEXT OF COMPARINGH THE APPROVED AND THE RATIFIED SEEKING

THE WIDEST GAMUT OF NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION TO, BY A CONSENSUS, TO DETERMINE WHICH WILL BE THE OFFICIAL REPLY AND WHAT FORM THE REPLY WILL TAKE."

3. TORRIJOS CONTINUEZ:"THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE TO MAKE A GREAT EFFORT TO THINK AND THINK AND NOT TO FEEL AND FEEL, IN ORDER NOT TO FALL INTO THE INYANE ATTITUDE OF FEELING WHAT IS AGREED TO IS GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY BUT BAD FOR THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE GROUP IT REPRESENTS, OR TO TURN IT AROUND, THAT IS, THAT THE TRZATY IS BAD FOR THE COUNTRY BUT GOOD FOR THE POLITICAL DEMANDS."

4. TORRIJOS THEN TURNED TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, TERMING THEM OF "TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE, ALMOST HISTORICAL," HE CONTINUED: "I UNDERSTAND THAT FOR EACH EAR OF DEVELOPMENT IN ALL OF ITS MANIFESTATIONS IN HE LIFE OF THE NATION THEREHIS A CORRESPONDING ATTITUDE OF REALIGNMENT OF OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURES. IN THIS THE EXECUTIVE HAS NOT ADOPTED NOR WILL IT ADOPT ZITHER AN INTRANSIGENT OR SECTARIAN POSITION. IF AFTER AUGUST THE CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES AND THOSE ELECTED THINK THAT ADJUSTMENTS TO THE POLITICAL CHARTER ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE LZGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL STRUCTRE, HE EXECUTIVE WILL NOT (OPPOSE IT) AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, AND FURTHER WILL EVEN TAKE THE INIIATIVE."

5. TORRIJOS GOES ON TO YAY THAT HE WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO
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INCORPORATING THE PROVINCIAL VICE-PRESIDENTS INTO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NOR WOULD HE OPPOSE " A MECHANISM OF CONSULTATIONS AND APPROVAL OF LAWS BY SUBMITTING THEM TO THE CONSENSUS OF THE 505 VIA THE FULL ASSEMBLY OR THE PROVINCIAL COORDINATING COUNCILS. THAT IS TO ALLOW THE 505 TO SPEAK MORE LOQDLY AND CLEARLY BY GIVING THEM THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF VOICE AND VOTE ON LEGISLATION. (ALSO) THE EXECUTIVE IS READY TO SUBMIT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE 505 SOME APPOINTMENTS OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPORTANCE SUCH AS SOME OF THE AQTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS." ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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